

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly Newscast

November 1stth, 2013

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Kim Chaba-Armstrong

Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the definition that best matches each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. controversial	a) making someone feel unsafe
	2. advertisements	b) likely to cause public disagreement
	3. councilor	c) public information about a product or cause
	4. complaints	d) something is very upsetting; inappropriate
	5. threatening	e) piece of information
	6. offensive	f) saying something is not okay; telling what you don't like about something
	7. message	g) person elected to help the mayor run the city

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

American Freedom Defense Initiative – An American anti-Muslim organization (Wikipedia definition, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stop_Islamization_of_America)

honour code – A set of rules in a community

Fatwa – A decision about Islamic law

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Edmonton Transit put ads about Islamic people on city buses in Edmonton.
2. ____ The ads were paid for by a Canadian group.
3. ____ The ads included pictures of young women.
4. ____ A city councilor got complaints from people about the ads.
5. ____ The city councilor was not offended by the ads.
6. ____ ETS refuses to take down the ads.

Discussion Questions

Do you think people and groups should be able to have free speech whatever their message is?

How can free speech be limited in a democracy? Did ETS do the right thing in taking down these ads?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words.

Answers are in the appendix.

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) area	a. people residents
	2) code	b. agreed supported
	3) enough	c. region community
	4) approved	d. plenty sufficient
	5) level	e. amount quantity
	6) according to	f. set of numbers
	7) population	g. said by reported by

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

CRTC - The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission is a public organization in Canada that is responsible for radio, television and telecommunications

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. By 2016, _____ area codes will not be enough for _____.	a) four/ B.C. b) three/ Alberta
2. The _____ code will be _____.	a) new / 825 b) old/ 835
3. By 2016, Alberta will have the same number of area codes as _____.	a) British Columbia. b) Quebec.
4. Ontario has _____ codes and _____ has 10.	a) 13/Quebec b) 4/B.C.
5. Alberta's population is now _____.	a) more than four million. b) more than five million.

Discussion Questions

Alberta's population is growing. Do you think this is a good thing for the province? What should the maximum population of the province be? Why?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

unsure (don't know, unclear) **zones** (special areas for a specific purpose) **clarity** (understanding)
control (power to make decisions) **local** (in a small area) **improve** (make something better)
safety (not in danger)

1. In my neighborhood there are a number of school and playground _____ where drivers must slow down during the school day.
2. I prefer to eat food that is grown in the _____ area as it tastes fresher.
3. I am hoping that painting the outside of my house will really _____ the way it looks from the street.
4. I am very _____ about how to become a Canadian citizen so I am going to read the government website to try to get the information.
5. Since I read the information on the government website I have more _____ about the steps to become a citizen.
6. My two year old daughter likes to be in _____ of everything she does, including what she eats, what times she goes to bed, and what clothes she wears.
7. I always tell my children that they must think about _____ first when they are crossing the street.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What change is planned to the times that school and playground zones begin and end?
2. In future, which level of government will control playground zones in Alberta?
3. What reason did the transportation minister give for making the change?
4. Do drivers understand the start and end times for playground zones right now? Why do you think this?

Discussion Questions

Have you ever had a speeding ticket in Canada? What do you think of the speed that people drive at in your town or city? Do you have playground zones in your town or city? Do you know what speed you should drive through these playground zones?

Language Focus – Pronunciation of plural nouns

The pronunciation of a plural noun depends upon how the last sound of the singular form of the noun sounds.

Look at the chart below to see the different pronunciations of plural endings.

/s/ sound	/z/ sound	/iz/ sound
If the singular noun ends with: a 'k' sound, track <u>k</u> or ask <u>k</u> a 't' sound, tent <u>s</u> a 'p' sound, top <u>s</u> a 'th' sound, bath <u>s</u> a 'f' sound, cliff <u>s</u>	If the singular noun ends with: a 'd' sound, hand <u>s</u> an 'n' sound, sun <u>s</u> an 'm' sound, clam <u>s</u> an 'l' sound, well <u>s</u> a 'b' sound, lab <u>s</u> an 'ng' sound, king <u>s</u> an 'r' sound, fill <u>er</u> s	If the singular noun ends with: an 's' sound, kiss <u>es</u> * a 'sh' sound, wish <u>es</u> a 'dge' sound, judg <u>es</u> a 'ch' sound, beach <u>es</u>

*Notice that with the /iz/ pronunciation, there is always an "e" before the "s" in the spelling.

The following words are all spoken in the first and second stories of the audio. Listen to the audio again and say the words aloud. Then, try to place the words in the correct category on the chart.

Use the examples to help you. *Answers can be found in the appendix.*

1. **complaints**
2. **ads**
3. **pictures**
4. **girls**
5. **buses**
6. **codes**
7. **provinces**
8. **statistics**

Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	NOVEMBER 1ST WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for November 1st.	0:00
Story 1	Edmonton Transit is taking down some controversial advertisements after complaints were made. The ads, by a group called the American Freedom Defense Initiative, offer help for young girls living in fear of the Islamic honour code. The ads say "Is Your Family Threatening You? Is There a Fatwa on Your Head?" There are also pictures of several young women with the words "Girls honour killed by their families." Five of the ads were put on the outside of buses. City councillor Amarjeet Sohi talked to ETS about the ads after getting several complaints from across the city. Sohi says he thought the ad's message was very offensive. After Sohi's call, ETS took down the ads.	0:09
Story 2	It seems three area codes aren't enough for Alberta. Area Codes 403, 780 and 587 will be full in a couple of years. So, the CRTC has approved a new number -- 825. But it won't be in use until April 2016. The new code will bring Alberta up to the level of B.C., which also has four area codes. Most other provinces have one or two area codes, while Ontario has 13 and Quebec 10. According to Statistics Canada, Alberta's population is now more than four million.	1:18
Story 3	Drivers unsure about when school and playground zones take effect may soon have more clarity. School and playground zones could soon start and end at the same time. Alberta's transportation minister Ric McIvor said this week, the province will allow towns and cities to have control over changing playground zone times. He says local government knows what decisions are best for each community to improve safety for kids.	2:22

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
b	1. controversial	a) making someone feel unsafe
c	2. advertisements	b) likely to cause public disagreement
g	3. councilor	c) public information about a product or cause
f	4. complaints	d) something is very upsetting; inappropriate
a	5. threatening	e) piece of information
d	6. offensive	f) saying something is not okay; telling what you don't like about something
e	7. message	g) person elected to help the mayor run the city

Listening

1. **T** Edmonton Transit put ads about Islamic people on city busses in Edmonton.
2. **F** The ads were paid for by a Canadian group.
3. **T** The ads included pictures of young women.
4. **T** A city councilor got complaints from people about the ads.
5. **F** The city councilor was not offended by the ads.
6. **F** ETS refuses to take down the ads.

News story 2

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
c	1) area	a. people residents
f	2) code	b. agreed supported
d	3) enough	c. region community
b	4) approved	d. plenty sufficient
e	5) level	e. amount quantity
g	6) according to	f. set of numbers
a	7) population	g. said by reported by

Listening

1. By 2016, <u>three</u> area codes will not be enough for <u>Alberta</u> .	a) four/ B.C. b) <u>three/ Alberta</u>
2. The <u>new</u> code will be <u>825</u> .	a) <u>new / 825</u> b) old/ 835
3. By 2016, Alberta will have the same number of area codes as <u>British Columbia</u> .	a) <u>British Columbia</u> . b) Quebec.
4. Ontario has <u>13</u> codes and <u>Quebec</u> has 10.	a) <u>13/Quebec</u> b) 4/B.C.
5. Alberta's population is now <u>more than four million</u> .	a) <u>more than four million</u> . b) more than five million.

News story 3

Vocabulary

1. In my neighborhood there are a number of school and playground zones where drivers must slow down during the school day.
2. I prefer to eat food that is grown in the local area as it tastes fresher.
3. I am hoping that painting the outside of my house will really improve the way it looks from the street.
4. I am very unsure about how to become a Canadian citizen so I am going to read the government website to try to get the information.
5. Since I read the information on the government website I have more clarity about the steps to become a citizen.
6. My two year old daughter likes to be in control of everything she does, including what she eats, what times she goes to bed, and what clothes she wears.
7. I always tell my children that they must think about safety first when they are crossing the street.

Listening

1. What change is planned to the times that school and playground zones begin and end? They could start and end at the same time.
2. In future, which level of government will control playground zones in Alberta? Local government, towns and cities
3. What reason did the transportation minister give for making the change? Local governments know their areas the best and what decisions make most sense.
4. Do drivers understand the start and end times for playground zones right now? Why do you think this? No because the newsreader starts by saying this change will give clarity to people who are unsure about the times.